17.

A Seasonable ADDRESS To the Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Court of Aldermen, AND COMMONERS Of the CITY of LONDON, Upon their Present Electing of SHERIFS.

By PHILO-PATRIS, *Citizen*, &c.

My LORD, and Fellow-Citizens,

IT is now high time to consider of an Expedient to cure the Distempers that so much prevails in our Corporation, since Matters are grown to such a hight, that too many amongst Us, think it their Great Interest to Cross, yea, and Oppose too the present Constitution of the Government: Have we not already been deluded by the Subtilties and Contrivances of the busie Jesuit? and the Male-contented men amongst Us? to Act such things within the Memory of Man, which has exposed Us to the Scorn and Contempt of all Nations round about us? Have we been led into Rebellion by their Stratagems and Devices, and with our Power and Purses destroyed the best Government, and the best of Kings? and shall we still be deluded; Have we not enough smarted under the Tyranny

and Cruelty of Murderers and Usurpers, who brought us so low, that if the immediate hand of God had not interpos'd, and restor'd us to Peace and Settlement, we had certainly been the most miserable Nation in Europe; *and after all this to be forgiven all our Murders, Rebellions, and whatever Crimes we had committed against our lawful King and Government, still to murmure and repine, and fill our streets with Complaints, as if we had rather return again to our old Trade of Covenanting, and Tickle pt Heroz, then live in Peace and be obedient to our Governours. Surely the hand of Heaven has been upon us by War and Plague, will that give us no Warning neither? Nay do we not see a sensible Decay and Poverty, a wasting of the very Spirit and Life of the City and Nation, occasioned by the Discontents and Confusions, that are among us, whereas had we united and lov'd one another (though of different Perswasions in Religion) or had we all joyn'd together to oppose Popery, Prophaness, and the Outrages of Fanaticism, and been contented under the several dispensations of Governments since the Kings Return, been obedient to the Laws, and true lovers of our King, and of our own Peace, we might have now been the happiest City in the World. Oh my Lord, I wish that these things may never again be told of in* Gath, *nor Published in the Gates of* Askalon, *least the Antichristian Crew Tryumph, and Sing their* Io-Pæans *on our Destruction.*

Do we not plainly see that the same principled men are now again working their Designs, to put us in the same confusion as before? See what Affronts, what Insolencies are daily offer'd to the Persons of Governours and the Government, How many little Citizens become (in their own opinion) States-men, and instead of minding their Shops and Business, are hearded into little Parties, to consider what are fit Instruments to be set up to carry on their little Policies against the establish'd Government and Laws? So that it is high time, My Lord and Brethren, that we (who love our King, and the true Reformed Religion, as Establish'd among us by Law) be very diligent to put the Laws in Execution against such publick and scandalous Offenders, since all the fair Means imaginable will not perswade them to Unity and good Order.

My Lord and Fellow Citizens, why shall we permit our Adversaries to triumph over us thus, with their noise and non-sense? Let us stand up like Men of Courage, *and hand in hand joyn together against the torrent of* Jesuitical-Plots *and* Fanatical-Rage, *lest we all perish in the gainsaying of* Corah.

Is it not too obvious to us all, that those very many Testimonies we have had of a Damnable Popish Design *to subvert our Government, are now become highly esteemed of through the Follies of those that testified? Do we not see those very Men, instead of joyning with the Church of* England, *(the only Bulwark to keep Popery out, secure the Monarchy, and keep us in Peace and Unity) follow the discontented men amongst us; nay as if there were a kind of agreement made between* Rome *and* Geneva?

Have we not seen what misguided Zeal has formerly done? And did we not see men lately in Authority among us, pursuing Popery so hot, that the very Effigies of our Saviour must be made Fuel, with the other Superstitious Rags of Antichristian Trumpery? *Thus we cry out* Popery, Jesuits, Popishly affected, *&c. and lead our selves at the same time into Confusion or Destruction. Let us but keep quiet, submit to our Governours and our Laws, and then we need not fear Popery, nor (which is as bad) Arbitrary Government. Have we not seen among the Crew of our late Reforming Murderers, a notorious Jesuite, triumphing to see the Sacred Head of the best of Kings taken off even at his own Gate (as the Famous* Du Moulin *offers to prove) and shall we still be blind, and not consider that the very same Emissaries (since they could not effect their late bloudy Designs) are now amongst us in Sheeps cloathing, blowing up the Coals of Sedition and Discontent, on purpose to accomplish their work in the midst of our Confusions.*

Wherefore

Wherefore, my Lord, It highly concerns us all to look home, since our King and Government is in danger, that we admit none into any publick places of Trust in our City, but such as are of undoubted Loyalty, and great Integrity, not such who can swallow Oaths upon Oaths, and contradictory ones too, when it serves their Interest, not such who have laid themselves forth for the pretended good of the Subject, in all changes of Government among us.

Then shall we bear Testimony of our Sincerity to maintain the true Interest of our King, and the true Reformed Religion. For what trust ought there by the King or Us, be put into Their hands, who are men of such dangerous Principles? Or what security can there be given for them, when Zeal, and the advantages of high Places, and love of Faction, shall byass them under the changes of any Government.

Oh that we did all consider our own Interests and Peace, and that we would lay it to heart before it be too late, Let not our Murmurings and Repinings, nor our Popish and Factious Designs, provoke the King to Wrath, let us remember what the Wise man said, The Wrath of a King is as Messengers of Death, but a Wise man will pacifie it. *Let us not forfeit our Birthright for a Mess of Pottage; throw away our Peace, our Religion, Liberty and Property, for the sake of a few Scraps of Policie and Faction, which will be our Ruine. Let us not under the notion of Zeal for the Protestant Interest be Protestants frighted out of our Wits. Thanks be to God we have a good King, a King that has expressed more affection to us by his frequent Visits, by adding large Immunities to our City, then was ever done by many of our Kings before him, and Thanks be to God he may live many Years to Reign over us (which God Grant) so that what ever Fears and Jealousies we have of Popery, &c. to me sure we are safe both in our Religion and Property as long as the King lives, and we cannot but know that 'tis not so easie a matter to introduce Popery amongst us, as 'twill be a Common-Wealth (the bottom of all these Designs) when once our Divisions drive us into Rage and Madness.*

My Lord, *I have my Being amongst you, and would not willingly see my Brethren led away again into Captivity under new Task-Masters; Let us all unite in Brotherly Love, and let those who endeavour to widen our differences by Preachments and Coffee-House Discourses, be strictly called to an Account, according as the Law Commands, that we may be once again reduced to a State of Peace and Happiness among our selves.*

My Lord, *Now whatever reasons they are that do perswade the Discontented Party amongst us, to be out of Love with Peace and Unity, and the present settlement, I am sure they can no ways compensate the Mischiefs which do of Consequence attend such Actions.*

My Lord, *I have no Design in sending this Address to Your Lordship, but to cast in a Mite according to my duty at this juncture of time, endeavouring to perswade my fellow Citizens that they would become good Men, and good Christians, and that I am sure the Consequence will be Peace and Tranquility in our* Israel; *for,* My Lord *what ever Interests are set up against the Established Law of this Kingdom, either in Church or State, must lead to Sedition and Rebellion, from which as 'tis your Lordships Care and Duty to prevent, so I do assure your Lordship, that notwithstanding the noises the* Popish and Fanatick *Rage may make, You will find that nothing can secure us but by observing these Oaths, that oblige Magistrates to put in Execution such Laws as may curb the Insolencies of such Persons,*

My Lord, and Fellow-Citizens,

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

LOVE.

London July 19*th.* 1680.

POSTSCRIPT.

My Lord,

I Shall not fail to acquaint Your Lordship in a few Days, (God willing) both with my Name, and Place of Living; that what I have written may not be taken for a Libel, *but the well meaning of a true Lover of the* KING, *and His Royal Interest, the Church of* England, *and this Honourable* City, *and all the Honourable Members thereof.*